

Volume 3, Issue 2

February 2002

# Inside Your Third

The Newsletter for the Third Taxing District

Two Second Street East Norwalk, CT 06855

[www.ttd.gov](http://www.ttd.gov) 866-9271

## Your Commission

David L. Brown

*Chairman*

Stephen M. Feinstein

*Commissioner*

Paul S. Coggin

*Commissioner*

John L. Mola

*Treasurer*

Victor J. Tenore

*Electrical General Manager*

## Upcoming Events:

- February 19 Regular Commission Meeting 7:00 PM, Library, Eunice Van Zilen Room
- February 27 Beautification Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM, Library (upstairs)
- March 6 Annual District Meeting, Library, Eunice Van Zilen Room
- March 25 Regular Commission Meeting, 7:00 PM, Library, Eunice Van Zilen Room

## East Norwalk Community Survey

### Please Complete & Return With Your Payment — Thank You!

This month's newsletter is being used to gather input from the citizens of East Norwalk—to find out what issues are important to you & help the Commission focus our energy to best serve the needs of the community. Please take a few moments to complete this & return it with your bill. Your participation & input are crucial.

Thank you. *Paul* Paul Coggin, Commissioner and this month's newsletter editor.

1. Please rate the importance of each of the following to you - and then circle your top 3 items:

<u>District Issues</u>	<u>Not very important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Very Important</u>
A. Competitive electric rates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Electrical infrastructure / security	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Reducing local traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. A good local bakery/café in East Norwalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Economic revitalization in East Norwalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Controlling litter / dog feces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. East Norwalk library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Historical preservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. Low crime / better safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J. Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Do you feel any of the following areas need to be revitalized or improved (e.g., historical preservation, etc.)?

	<u>No, not really</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>OK, maybe</u>	<u>Yes!</u>
Ludlow Shopping Plaza	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Liberty Square	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
East Norwalk Train Station	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
East Avenue (between highway & RR bridge)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fort Point St. (between East Ave & Sea View)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Do you feel the Taxing District Commission should play an active role in East Norwalk community affairs?

- ◇ Yes, the Taxing District Commissioners should leverage their powers as needed, maybe even more so than they have done in the past (e.g., helping create new local ordinances, encouraging the City to enforce existing ordinances, helping make Marvin school—the only school within our District—the best in the City, etc.).
- ◇ No, I'm confident that the City and our City Councilmen will take care of the needs of East Norwalk.
- ◇ No opinion.

3A. ☐ I didn't realize the District Commission could play such a positive role, please tell me more.

4. The City is considering putting soccer fields on Taylor Farm — do you favor this?

- ◇ Yes, our existing fields (such as Vets Park & Marvin School) are too crowded.
- ◇ No, it would generate excessive traffic and it's an inappropriate use of the Taylor family's bequest.

## Community Survey (Continued)

5. Are you aware of the District's role in holiday tree lightings, mini-parks, traffic islands, library, summer concerts, fire safety, etc.? ☐ Yes ☐ Partially ☐ No, not at all

6. How many times have you used the East Norwalk library (on Van Zant Street) during the past year?

- ☐ None. ☐ 1 to 2 times.  
☐ 3 to 6 times. ☐ 7 to 12 times.  
☐ More than 12 times (more than once a month).

7. The East Norwalk Improvement Association is planning to renovate the library. Are you willing to subsidize this through your electric bill or to reduce our reserves to help the Improvement Association pay for it?

- ☐ Yes, as much as needed.  
☐ Maybe, to a degree.  
☐ I need more detailed information.  
☐ No. **(for more info, see notes below)**

8. If the library renovations go forward, do you think the appearance of the library should be changed?

- ☐ Yes, I prefer modern architectural standards.  
☐ No, the building's historic appearance should be saved.  
☐ No opinion.

9. If the District earns excess funds, what should be done?

- ☐ Use funds for local improvement projects in East Norwalk, this is good because it stays in the community.  
☐ Keep most of it for a rainy day and a little for local improvements.  
☐ No opinion / Not sure.  
☐ Lower my electrical rates, forget the improvements.

10. I've attended some of the District-sponsored summer concerts: ☐ Yes, often ☐ Yes, occasionally ☐ No

11. To what extent are these library services important to you?

	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>High Importance</u>
Videos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expanded Hours	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Childrens' books, readings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Not applicable, I don't use the East Norwalk Library.

12. Do you support traffic calming measures such as speed bumps, more stop signs, etc?

- ☐ Yes. ☐ No.

13. Do you believe the District has done a good job of taking care of traffic islands and mini-parks?

- ☐ Yes, they look great as is.  
☐ They're ok but we should improve them w/ better litter control, granite curbing, etc., they're important gateways to our community.  
☐ They're a mess and should be addressed immediately.  
☐ Not interested, let the City deal with it.

14. The District Commission oversees your local municipal electric provider, TTD Electric. Happy w/ the service?

- ☐ Yes, I have good rates and/or my power is reliable.  
☐ No, I have problems with rates and/or service staff.  
☐ No opinion.

15. Favor renewable energy, even if it means a 20% increase in your electrical rates? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

16. Interested in learning more about the District Commission, how it can help the community? ☐ Yes ☐ No

17. Other comments? Add here or on separate paper.

**Commission Chairman David Brown's Comments Regarding Library Project:** In the near future the East Norwalk Improvement Association will begin extensive remodeling of the East Norwalk Library. Some of the remodeling will make the library more accessible to the disabled people in our neighborhood. Some of the renovations will change the overall appearance of the building. The Association will eventually come before the District Commission to help fund the project. According to Mr. Terry Rooney, President of the Improvement Association, the total cost of the remodeling and renovations is \$1,800,000. We would like to know how much you want to underwrite these improvements or if you want to underwrite them at all.

The Improvement Association has received a State Grant for \$500,000. The balance needed to complete the project is \$1,300,000, some of which may be covered by gifts and other contributions. As a result, Mr. Rooney is projecting a shortfall which amounts to the equivalent of a one-time payment of approximately \$300 per household either added onto your bill or deducted from the Electrical Department's cash reserves (some of the reserves being for infrastructure improvement and contingencies for catastrophic losses). Should we use available reserves to renovate the library, build more beautiful fences, or refund it back to you? Fill out your questionnaire, add your personal comments and mail it back with your payment. We will listen to you. You elected us and we work for you. Please call us anytime with your advice & critiques. **David Brown**, Chairman, Third Taxing District Commission.

### Quick News

**Traffic Control:** There is an organization in Norwalk called Advocates for Calm Traffic (ACT) that is composed of members of the public throughout Norwalk in a joint venture with government and private sectors taking action to calm traffic. If you want to know more or want to get involved, call Laurel Lindstrom, ACT Coordinator at 203-855-7668 or email her at [calmtraffic@cs.com](mailto:calmtraffic@cs.com).

**Enron Collapse:** Worried about Enron affecting your municipal electric provider? Fortunately, both TTD Electric and CMEEC (the Connecticut purchasing co-op we belong to) have virtually no exposure to power supply agreements with Enron, which means our supply of low-cost, reliable power remains strong. Public power — with over 2000 municipal electric companies across the nation — is a tradition that works.

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